

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON
REVIEW OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT ACTIVITIES FOR 2003 AND INITIAL
CONCEPTS FOR 2005-2006

For The April 2004 Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

The selective flatfish trawl has been proven effective at reducing bycatch of canary and many other rockfish. However, it is clearly not effective at reducing the bycatch of darkblotched and other "bottom tending" rockfish, that currently need protection or may need protection in the future. There are other types of fish stocks taken off California, Oregon and Washington that, like rockfish, will likely prove to be less resilient to fishing than many flatfish stocks. Skate populations, for example, have proven to be easily overfished in other regions of the world. To help address some of these current and potential future bycatch issues, ODFW hopes to be able to complete additional trawl gear research in 2005-06 aimed at testing additional trawl modifications that may be able to more completely separate flatfish from other fish, based on size, shape or behavior.

This EFP will differ from most previous EFP's, in that research will be conducted under charter to the state of Oregon, with vessel operations under direct control of the principal investigators. Similar research in previous years has been conducted under a "letter of acknowledgment" (an LOA) from NOAA Fisheries. We have been advised though, that this type of research is more appropriately done under an EFP. The planning for this research, including identifying funding, is just beginning, however, we have identified the projected catch of overfished species needed to conduct this research. For 2005 work, we need 0.4t of canary rockfish, 0.15t of yelloweye rockfish, 2.5t of Pacific hake, 0.2t of Pacific ocean perch, 0.5t of darkblotched rockfish, 6.5t of lingcod (although these will all be released if alive) and a trace level (<0.1t) for bocaccio and cowcod. For 2006 research, which we anticipate will move once again out to the continental slope, we need 5.0t of Pacific hake, 3.0t of Pacific ocean perch, 3.0t of darkblotched rockfish, 0.4t of lingcod and trace level catches of canary rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, bocaccio and cowcod.

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